

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Riluzole (6- (~~trifluoromethoxy~~ trifluoromethoxy)-2-benzothiazolamine) is described in European Patent 50,511 and US Patent 4,370,338. Its use in the treatment of motor nerve diseases is described in European Patent 558,861. Riluzole is produced by Rhone-Poulenc Rorer (RPR) and is used for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a disease unrelated to MS.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

As mentioned above, most currently available treatments for MS are aimed at suppressing the inflammatory component of the disease. Their main clinical impact is on relapses, whereas an effect on permanent disability has so far been less well established. The claimed invention relates to the use of riluzole in the treatment of multiple sclerosis. Riluzole, as used herein, refers to (6- (~~trifluoromethoxy~~ trifluoromethoxy)-2-benzothiazolamine) as described in European Patent 50,511 and US Patent 4,370,338, as well as all analogs, homologs or variants thereof which have substantially the same activity and structure as riluzole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

As used herein, the claimed pharmaceutical compositions may comprise a therapeutically effective amount of 6- (~~trifluoromethoxy~~ trifluoromethoxy)-2-benzothiazoloamine), its analogs, homologs, variants or salts thereof. Specifically, the present invention encompasses pharmaceutical compositions comprising pharmaceutically acceptable salts derived from inorganic or organic acids and bases.